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14 July 2005 (14.07.2005)

PCT

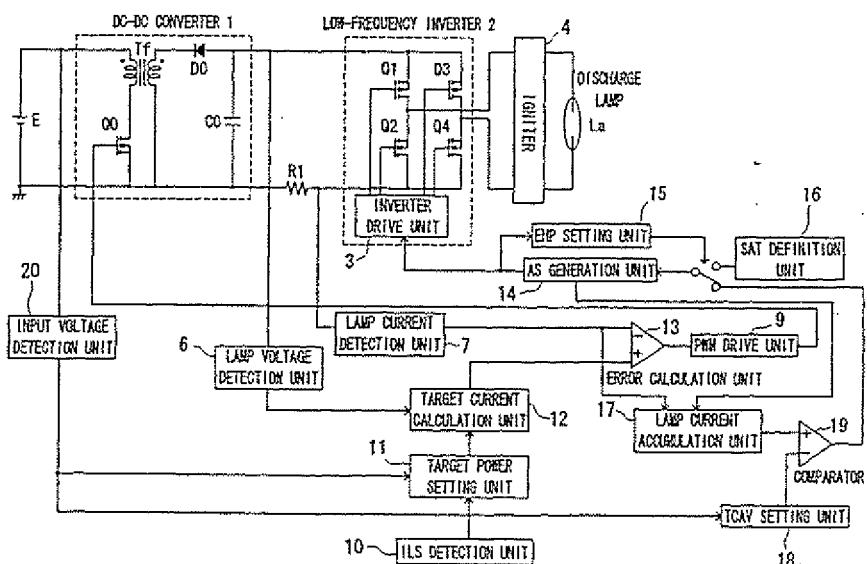
(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/064997 A1

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ :	H05B 41/288	(74) Agents: KAWAMIYA, Osamu et al.; Aoyama & Partners, IMP Building, 3-7, Shiromi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 5400001 (JP).
(21) International Application Number:	PCT/JP2004/019697	✓
(22) International Filing Date:	22 December 2004 (22.12.2004)	✓
(25) Filing Language:	English	✓
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(30) Priority Data:		
2003-433532	✓ 26 December 2003 (26.12.2003) JP	✓
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD. [JP/JP]; 1048, Oaza-Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 5718686 (JP).	✓	
(72) Inventors; and		
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SUGANUMA, Kazutoshi [JP/JP]; c/o Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd., 1048, Oaza-Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 5718686 (JP). KANBARA, Takashi [JP/JP]; c/o Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd., 1048, Oaza-Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 5718686 (JP). TANAKA, Toshifumi [JP/JP]; c/o Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd., 1048, Oaza-Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 5718686 (JP).	✓	
(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.		
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).		
Published:		— with international search report

Published:

{Continued on next page}

(54) Title: DISCHARGE LAMP LIGHTING APPARATUS AND LAMP SYSTEM USING THE LIGHTING APPARATUS



WO 2005/064997 A1

(57) **Abstract:** In a discharge lamp lighting apparatus, a power supplied to a discharge lamp La through a DC-DC converter 1 and an inverter 2 is controlled depending on detection results of a lamp voltage detection unit 6 and a lamp current detection unit 7, and in an electrode heating period an alternation time of an output to the discharge lamp when starting actuation of the discharge lamp is set longer than an alternation time in a steady lighting period, and the alternation time in the electrode heating period is increased depending on lowering of a supply power or current to the discharge lamp. Thus, even when a lamp current is suddenly changed, the discharge lamp is prevented from going off at the time of polarity inversion without lowering a life.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

PCT REQUEST

Original (for SUBMISSION)

0	For receiving Office use only	
0-1	International Application No.	
0-2	International Filing Date	
0-3	Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"	
0-4	Form PCT/RO/101 PCT Request	
0-4-1	Prepared Using	PCT-SAFE [EASY mode] Version 3.50 (Build 0002.163)
0-5	Petition	
	The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty	
0-6	Receiving Office (specified by the applicant)	Japan Patent Office (RO/JP)
0-7	Applicant's or agent's file reference	664845
I	Title of Invention	DISCHARGE LAMP LIGHTING APPARATUS AND LAMP SYSTEM USING THE LIGHTING APPARATUS
II	Applicant	
II-1	This person is	applicant only
II-2	Applicant for	all designated States except US
II-4	Name	MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD.
II-5	Address	1048, Oaza-Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 5718686
II-6	State of nationality	Japan
II-7	State of residence	JP
II-11	Applicant's registration No. with the Office	000005832
III-1	Applicant and/or inventor	
III-1-1	This person is	applicant and inventor
III-1-2	Applicant for	US only
III-1-4	Name (LAST, First)	SUGANUMA, Kazutoshi
III-1-5	Address	c/o MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD., 1048, Oaza-Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 5718686
III-1-6	State of nationality	Japan
III-1-7	State of residence	JP

PCT REQUEST

Original (for SUBMISSION)

III-2	Applicant and/or inventor	
III-2-1	This person is	applicant and inventor
III-2-2	Applicant for	US only
III-2-4	Name (LAST, First)	KANBARA, Takashi
III-2-5	Address	c/o MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD., 1048, Oaza-Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 5718686
		Japan
III-2-6	State of nationality	JP
III-2-7	State of residence	JP
III-3	Applicant and/or inventor	
III-3-1	This person is	applicant and inventor
III-3-2	Applicant for	US only
III-3-4	Name (LAST, First)	TANAKA, Toshifumi
III-3-5	Address	c/o MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD., 1048, Oaza-Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 5718686
		Japan
III-3-6	State of nationality	JP
III-3-7	State of residence	JP
IV-1	Agent or common representative; or address for correspondence	
	The person identified below is hereby/ has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:	agent
IV-1-1	Name (LAST, First)	KAWAMIYA, Osamu
IV-1-2	Address	AOYAMA & PARTNERS, IMP Building, 3-7, Shiromi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 5400001
		Japan
IV-1-3	Telephone No.	06-6949-1261
IV-1-4	Facsimile No.	06-6949-0361
IV-1-6	Agent's registration No.	100086405
IV-2	Additional agent(s)	additional agent(s) with same address as first named agent
IV-2-1	Name(s)	AOYAMA, Tamotsu (100062144)

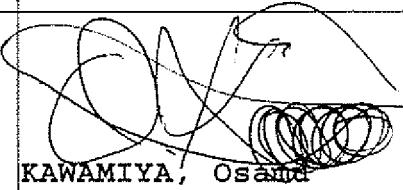
PCT REQUEST

Original (for SUBMISSION)

V	DESIGNATIONS		
V-1	The filing of this request constitutes under Rule 4.9(a), the designation of all Contracting States bound by the PCT on the international filing date, for the grant of every kind of protection available and, where applicable, for the grant of both regional and national patents.		
VI-1	Priority claim of earlier national application		
VI-1-1	Filing date	26 December 2003 (26.12.2003)	
VI-1-2	Number	2003-433532	
VI-1-3	Country	JP	
VI-2	Priority document request The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) identified above as item(s):	VI - 1	
VII-1	International Searching Authority Chosen	European Patent Office (EPO) (ISA/EP)	
VIII	Declarations	Number of declarations	
VIII-1	Declaration as to the identity of the inventor	-	
VIII-2	Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent	-	
VIII-3	Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to claim the priority of the earlier application	-	
VIII-4	Declaration of inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America)	-	
VIII-5	Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty	-	
IX	Check list	number of sheets	electronic file(s) attached
IX-1	Request (including declaration sheets)	4	✓
IX-2	Description	51	-
IX-3	Claims	6	-
IX-4	Abstract	1	✓
IX-5	Drawings	28	-
IX-7	TOTAL	90	

PCT REQUEST

Original (for SUBMISSION)

	Accompanying Items	paper document(s) attached	electronic file(s) attached
IX-8	Fee calculation sheet	✓	-
IX-9	Original separate power of attorney	✓	-
IX-17	PCT-SAFE physical media	-	✓
IX-18	other	Revenue stamps of transmittal fee for receiving office	
IX-19	Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract	1	
IX-20	Language of filing of the international application	English	
X-1	Signature of applicant, agent or common representative	 KAWAMIYA, Osamu	
X-1-1	Name (LAST, First)		
X-1-2	Name of signatory		
X-1-3	Capacity		

FOR RECEIVING OFFICE USE ONLY

10-1	Date of actual receipt of the purported international application	
10-2	Drawings:	
10-2-1	Received	
10-2-2	Not received	
10-3	Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application	
10-4	Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2)	
10-5	International Searching Authority	ISA/EP
10-6	Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid	

FOR INTERNATIONAL BUREAU USE ONLY

11-1	Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau	
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

NOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT OF RECORD COPY

(PCT Rule 24.2(a))

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

KAWAMIYA, Osamu
Aoyama & Partners
IMP Building
3-7, Shiromi 1-chome
Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi
Osaka 5400001
Japan

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 17 February 2005 (17.02.2005)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference 664845	International application No. PCT/JP2004/019697

The applicant is hereby **notified** that the International Bureau has received the record copy of the international application as detailed below.

Name(s) of the applicant(s) and State(s) for which they are applicants:

MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD. (for all designated States except US)
SUGANUMA, Kazutoshi et al (for US)

International filing date : 22 December 2004 (22.12.2004)
Priority date(s) claimed : 26 December 2003 (26.12.2003)
Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau : 20 January 2005 (20.01.2005)
List of designated Offices :
AP :BW,GH,GM,KE,LS,MW,MZ,NA,SD,SL,SZ,TZ,UG,ZM,ZW
EA :AM,AZ,BY,KG,KZ,MD,RU,TJ,TM
EP :AT,BE,BG,CH,CY,CZ,DE,DK,EE,ES,FI,FR,GB,GR,HU,IE,IS,IT,LT,LU,MC,NL,PL,PT,RO,SE,SI,SK,TR
OA :BF,BJ,CF,CG,CI,CM,GA,GN,GQ,GW,ML,MR,NE,SN,TD,TG
National :AE,AG,AL,AM,AT,AU,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BW,BY,BZ,CA,CH,CN,CO,CR,CU,CZ,DE,DK,DM,DZ,EC,EE,EG,ES,FI,GB,GD,GE,GH,GM,HR,HU,ID,IL,IN,IS,JP,KE,KG,KP,KR,KZ,LC,LK,LR,LS,LT,LU,LV,MA,MD,MG,MK,MN,MW,MX,MZ,NA,NI,NO,NZ,OM,PG,PH,PL,PT,RO,RU,SC,SD,SE,SG,SK,SL,SM,SY,TJ,TM,TN,TR,TT,TZ,UA,UG,US,UZ,VC,VN,YU,ZA,ZM,ZW

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer: Alexia SAPIN (Fax 338 7010)
Facsimile No. (41-22) 338.70.10	Telephone No. (41-22) 338 8439

**PCT**

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

KAWAMIYA, Osamu
Aoyama & Partners
IMP Building
3-7, Shiromi 1-chome
Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi
Osaka 5400001
JAPON

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 23 March 2005 (23.03.2005)
--

Applicant's or agent's file reference 664845

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No. PCT/JP04/019697
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International filing date (day/month/year)
22 December 2004 (22.12.2004)

International publication date (day/month/year)

Priority date (day/month/year)
26 December 2003 (26.12.2003)

Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD. et al
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1. By means of this Form, which replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents, the applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to all earlier application(s) whose priority is claimed. Unless otherwise indicated by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column or by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. *If applicable*) The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which, on the date of mailing of this Form, had not yet been received by the International Bureau under Rule 17.1(a) or (b). Where, under Rule 17.1(a), the priority document must be submitted by the applicant to the receiving Office or the International Bureau, but the applicant fails to submit the priority document within the applicable time limit under that Rule, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
3. *If applicable*) An asterisk (*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b) (the priority document was received after the time limit prescribed in Rule 17.1(a) or the request to prepare and transmit the priority document was submitted to the receiving Office after the applicable time limit under Rule 17.1(b)). Even though the priority document was not furnished in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b), the International Bureau will nevertheless transmit a copy of the document to the designated Offices, for their consideration. In case such a copy is not accepted by the designated Office as the priority document, Rule 17.1(c) provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

<u>Priority date</u>	<u>Priority application No.</u>	<u>Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office</u>	<u>Date of receipt of priority document</u>
26 December 2003 (26.12.2003)	2003-433532	JP	17 February 2005 (17.02.2005)

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Lynch Gregory
Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	Faesimile No. +41 22 338 70 10 Telephone No. +41 22 338 7079



PCT

FIRST NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF
THE COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION (TO DESIGNATED OFFICES WHICH
DO NOT APPLY THE 30 MONTH TIME LIMIT
UNDER ARTICLE 22(1))

(PCT Rule 47.1(c))

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 28 July 2005 (28.07.2005)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 664845	
International application No. PCT/JP2004/019697	International filing date (day/month/year) 22 December 2004 (22.12.2004)
Priority date (day/month/year) 26 December 2003 (26.12.2003)	
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD. et al	

IMPORTANT NOTICE

1. **ATTENTION:** For any designated Office(s), for which the time limit under Article 22(1), as in force from 1 April 2002 (30 months from the priority date), **does apply**, please see Form PCT/IB/308(Second and Supplementary Notice) (to be issued promptly after the expiration of 28 months from the priority date).
2. Notice is hereby given that the following designated Office(s), for which the time limit under Article 22(1), as in force from 1 April 2002, **does not apply**, has/have requested that the communication of the international application, as provided for in Article 20, be effected under Rule 93bis.1. The International Bureau has effected that communication on the date indicated below:
14 July 2005 (14.07.2005)

CH

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c-bis)(i), those Offices will accept the present notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

3. The following designated Offices, for which the time limit under Article 22(1), as in force from 1 April 2002, **does not apply**, have not requested, as at the time of mailing of the present notice, that the communication of the international application be effected under Rule 93bis.1 :

LU, SE, TZ, UG, ZM

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c-bis)(ii), those Offices accept the present notice as conclusive evidence that the Contracting State for which that Office acts as a designated Office does not require the furnishing, under Article 22, by the applicant of a copy of the international application.

4. TIME LIMITS for entry into the national phase

For the designated Office(s) listed above, and unless a demand for international preliminary examination has been filed before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (see Article 39(1)), the applicable time limit for entering the national phase will, **subject to what is said in the following paragraph**, be **20 MONTHS** from the priority date.

In practice, **time limits other than the 20-month time limit will continue to apply**, for various periods of time, in respect of certain of the designated Offices listed above. For **regular updates on the applicable time limits** (20 or 21 months, or other time limit), Office by Office, refer to the *PCT Gazette*, the *PCT Newsletter* and the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters, all available from WIPO's Internet site, at <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/index.html>.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor all these time limits.

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

KAWAMIYA, Osamu
Aoyama & Partners
IMP Building
3-7, Shiromi 1-chome
Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi
Osaka 5400001
JAPON

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Masashi Honda



From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

SECOND AND SUPPLEMENTARY NOTICE
INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION (TO DESIGNATED OFFICES
WHICH APPLY THE 30 MONTH TIME
LIMIT UNDER ARTICLE 22(1))

(PCT Rule 47.1(c))

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 27 April 2006 (27.04.2006)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference 664845	IMPORTANT NOTICE	
International application No. PCT/JP2004/019697	International filing date (day/month/year) 22 December 2004 (22.12.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 26 December 2003 (26.12.2003)
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD. et al		

- ATTENTION: For any designated Office(s), for which the time limit under Article 22(1), as in force from 1 April 2002 (30 months from the priority date), **does not apply**, please see Form PCT/IB/308(First Notice) issued previously.
- Notice is hereby given that the following designated Office(s), for which the time limit under Article 22(1), as in force from 1 April 2002, **does apply**, has/have requested that the communication of the international application, as provided for in Article 20, be effected under Rule 93bis.1. The International Bureau has effected that communication on the date indicated below:
14 July 2005 (14.07.2005)

AU, AZ, BY, CN, CO, DZ, EP, HU, KG, KP, KR, MD, MK, MZ, NA, PG, RU, SY, TM, US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c-bis)(i), those Offices will accept the present notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

- The following designated Offices, for which the time limit under Article 22(1), as in force from 1 April 2002, **does apply**, have not requested, as at the time of mailing of the present notice, that the communication of the international application be effected under Rule 93bis.1 :

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BZ, CA, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EA, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LV, MA, MG, MN, MW, MX, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, SC, SD, SG, SK, SL, SM, TJ, TN, TR, TT, UA, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZW

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c-bis)(ii), those Offices accept the present notice as conclusive evidence that the Contracting State for which that Office acts as a designated Office does not require the furnishing, under Article 22, by the applicant of a copy of the international application.

- TIME LIMITS for entry into the national phase

For the designated or elected Office(s) listed above, the applicable time limit for entering the national phase will, subject to what is said in the following paragraph, be **30 MONTHS** from the priority date.

In practice, time limits other than the 30-month time limit will continue to apply, for various periods of time, in respect of certain of the designated or elected Office(s) listed above. For regular updates on the applicable time limits (30 or 31 months, or other time limit), Office by Office, refer to the *PCT Gazette*, the *PCT Newsletter* and the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters, all available from WIPO's Internet site, at <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/index.html>.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor all these time limits.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Masashi Honda
---	-------------------------------------

17.3.14

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

AOYAMA & PARTNERS
 Attn. Kawamiya, Osamu
 IMP Building, 3-7 Shiromi 1-chome
 Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi
 Osaka 540-0001
 JAPAN

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
 THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
 THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
 SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)	11/03/2005
Applicant's or agent's file reference 664845		FOR FURTHER ACTION	See paragraphs 1 and 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/019697		International filing date (day/month/year)	22/12/2004
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD.			

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the PCT Applicant's Guide, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Alexandra Voye
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 664845	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/JP2004/019697	International filing date (day/month/year) 22/12/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 26/12/2003
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H05B41/288

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H05B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category ^a	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 291 945 B1 (TOYAMA KOICHI ET AL) 18 September 2001 (2001-09-18)	1,20
A	column 1, line 51 – line 64; figures 1,2,9 column 3, line 38 – column 11, line 50 column 18, line 25 – line 32	2-18
Y	-----	19
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 12, 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12) & JP 2002 216982 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS LTD), 2 August 2002 (2002-08-02) abstract; figures 1,6 -----	1
Y	EP 1 351 276 A (OSRAM-SYLVANIA INC) 8 October 2003 (2003-10-08) the whole document -----	19 -/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

^a Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

3 March 2005

11/03/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Henderson, R

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2003/160576 A1 (SUZUKI TOSHI0) 28 August 2003 (2003-08-28) the whole document -----	1-20
A	US 5 481 163 A (NAKAMURA ET AL) 2 January 1996 (1996-01-02) the whole document -----	1

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 6291945	B1	18-09-2001	JP JP DE	3500815 B2 9073991 A 19626101 A1		23-02-2004 18-03-1997 02-01-1997
JP 2002216982	A	02-08-2002	CN DE WO US	1456029 A 10290424 T0 02056645 A2 2003111969 A1		12-11-2003 21-08-2003 18-07-2002 19-06-2003
EP 1351276	A	08-10-2003	US CA EP JP	2003189408 A1 2415015 A1 1351276 A2 2003303571 A		09-10-2003 04-10-2003 08-10-2003 24-10-2003
US 2003160576	A1	28-08-2003	CN EP WO	1465210 A 1404161 A1 02102120 A1		31-12-2003 31-03-2004 19-12-2002
US 5481163	A	02-01-1996	JP JP DE	3280475 B2 7045390 A 4428850 A1		13-05-2002 14-02-1995 09-02-1995

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

17.3.14

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/019697

International filing date (day/month/year)
22.12.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
26.12.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H05B41/288

Applicant
MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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Authorized Officer

Henderson, R

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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2-19
	No: Claims	1,20
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-20
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Section V

1. Of the documents cited in the International Search Report, the following is considered to form the closest state of the art with respect to the application; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1 = US6291945

D2 = Patent abstracts of Japan & JP2002-216982

D3 = EP1351276

2. Independent claims 1 and 20 do not meet the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT, because they lack novelty over D1 or D2.

D1 (figs. 1 and 2; col. 1, lines 51-64; col. 3, line 38 - col. 11, line 50) discloses a discharge lamp lighting circuit comprising a power conversion unit (4), an inverter (5), lamp voltage detection (VL), lamp current detection (IL) and a control unit (7). D1 (fig. 9) further discloses varying the alternation time of the lamp power for the actuation of the discharge lamp in response to the lamp current. For example, D1 (fig. 9) shows the increasing alternation time for time period T1 (col. 18, lines 25-32).

D2 equally discloses a discharge lamp lighting circuit having both voltage and current detection (abstract; fig. 1, *inter alia* circuit elements 91 and 92). The variation in alternation time of the inverter output power with respect to lamp current detected can be seen in D2 (fig 6).

Claim 20: Since lamp systems are generally known, and moreover, usually comprise lighting circuits, the inclusion of the known lighting circuit of claim 1 in such a system is not novel.

3. The features set out in dependent claims 2-19 are either known from the cited prior art or relate to usual matters of design which are unable to lend novelty or inventive step to the independent claims, Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT. In particular:

Minor modifications to the alternation times with respect to lamp current, voltage or

temperature, and temperature detection of the discharge lamp per se, cannot introduce an inventive concept. D3 discloses mercury free discharge lamps.

Section VII

1. To meet the requirements of Rule 6.3(b) PCT the independent claim should be properly cast in the two part form, with those features which in combination are disclosed by D1 being placed in the preamble.
2. To meet the requirements of Rule 6.2(b) PCT, reference signs in parenthesis should be inserted in the claims.
3. The description must be brought into conformity with the new claims to be filed, Rule 5.1(a)(iii) PCT.
4. To meet the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the document D1 should be identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly discussed.
5. When filing amended claims care should be taken during revision not to add subject matter which extends beyond the content of the application as originally filed, Article 34(2)(b) PCT.

In order to facilitate the examination of the conformity of the amended application with the requirements of Article 34(2)(b) PCT, the Applicant is requested to clearly identify the amendments carried out and to indicate the passages in the application as filed on which these amendments are based.

Section VIII

1. The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claim 1 is not clear. The wording in claim 1 (line 19) "to be longer than a normal alternation time thereof" is ambiguous, in particular, it is unclear what a normal alternation time is.